

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-07 IGA-02 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 MC-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 SS-15
TRSE-00 /069 W
-----122331Z 022032 /70

R 122037Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO AMEMBASSY LIMA
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2841
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ
SECDEF WASHDC
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, PINT, PE, EC
SUBJECT: DELIVERY OF US WEAPONS TO ECUADOR

1. YOU MAY RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM THE GOP ABOUT A SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FROM THE US TO ECUADOR WHICH WILL ARRIVE IN GUAYAQUIL ON JAN. 14-15 VIA USAF C-141, AND SUBSEQUENTLY ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN ADVISORS AT A TRAINING SITE/FIRING RANGE LOCATED SOME 15 KILOMETERS FROM THE PERUVIAN BORDER.

2. NEITHER WE NOR THE GOE INTEND TO PUBLICIZE THIS SHIPMENT, AND WE DOUBT THAT IT WILL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. IN THE EVENT THAT IT DOES, OR THAT PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE FINDS OUT ABOUT IT, WE SUGGEST THAT YOU RESPOND TO GOP INQUIRIES ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: THE SHIPMENT IS A NORMAL DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY ECUADOR UNDER THE FMS CASH AND CREDIT PROGRAMS. THE PURCHASES WERE MADE SOME TIME AGO AND HAVE NO RELATION TO RECENT RUMORS OF TENSIONS BETWEEN PERU AND ECUADOR. THE US ADVISORS ARE AMTT WHICH WILL SPEND SIX WEEKS TRAINING THE ECUADOREAN ARMY
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IN THE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT.

3. FYI. THE WEAPONS INVOLVED ARE 90MM, 106MM RECOILLESS RIFLES AND SOME 108 M72 ROCKETS (LAWS), ALONG WITH TRAINING AND WAR RESERVE AMMUNITION FOR THE RECOLLESS RIFLES. ALL OF THIS EQUIPMENT WAS ORDERED BY THE ECUADOREANS WELL IN ADVANCE OF RECENT RUMORS. THE LAWS, IN FACT, WERE BOUGHT

IN 1974 AND HAVE BEEN DELAYED BY QUALITY PROBLEMS ON THE PRODUCTION LINE. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SHIPMENT WERE MADE IN NOVEMBER. THE MTT WAS ALSO ARRANGED LAST FALL AND IS DEEMED NECESSARY BECAUSE THESE WEAPONS ARE BEING INTRODUCED INTO THE ECUADOREAN INVENTORY FOR THE FIRST TIME. THE FIRING RANGE WHERE TRAINING WILL TAKE PLACE HAS BEEN IN USE FOR SOME TIME (ALTHOUGH SPORADICALLY, GIVEN THE ECUADOREAN ARMY'S SHORTAGE OF AMMUNITION) AND IS PROBABLY KNOWN TO THE PERUVIANS. THE CONCERN OF THE ECUADOREANS IN ACQUIRING THIS ADDITIONAL ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY, OF COURSE, WAS ORIGINALLY STIMULATED BY THE THREAT THEY PERCEIVE FROM PERUVIAN TANKS. FROM THIS POINT OF VIEW, RECENT TENSIONS HAVE MADE THE ECUADOREANS EVEN MORE ANXIOUS TO ASSIMILATE THESE WEAPONS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. END FYI
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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